ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus which generates a copy of the print data file for a print job and utilizes the copied data file to calculate the amount of marking material required to print the print job while allowing the processing of the print job to proceed without interruption or delay. A print server in a computer or printing system receives print jobs originating at one or more host computers. At the print server the print job data file is copied and a separate task using the copy calculates the amount of marking material required to print the print job proceeds in the print server background in parallel with the conventional processing of the print job. The print job file is converted to a universal file format prior to being transmitted to the print server. Once the print job in universal file format is copied for the task of calculating the amount of marking material required to print the print job, the universal file format file is converted to a page description language file prior to print job processing and transmission to an imaging device.

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